

Application No. 10/716,631
Amendment dated October 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 1, 2005

Docket No.: 2450-0591P

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 remain present in this application.

The specification and claim 1 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lorenzi et al., U.S. Patent 6,322,801. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Although the Examiner has noted that claims 1-6 are present in this application, it is noted that only claims 1-5 are present. Correction in the next action issued by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

While the Lorenzi et al. patent is directed to personal care articles, this article has a water insoluble substrate and a cleansing component adjacent the first layer. Providing such a cleansing component in the sponge is not a part of the present invention. In addition, the Lorenzi et al. patent provides for a polymeric net arranged with a non-woven ply, as noted by the Examiner. In the present invention, on the other hand, there are sponge fibers formed in a mesh structure. These sponge fibers include a foam body and a resilient and colored resin layer. This resin layer will completely cover the foam body, as seen in Fig. 4 and discussed on page 3, lines 14-16 of the present specification. As such, the present invention can help ensure integrity and long-lastingness of the sponge. When the color pigment is added, the color for the sponge is improved. This arrangement of the present invention is neither suggested nor rendered obvious by the Lorenzi et al. patent. As such, it is respectfully requested that the 35 USC 102(b) rejection now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Birch, Stewart, Kolbach & Birch, LLP

5

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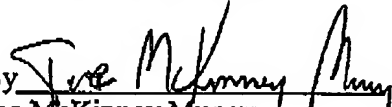
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In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 3, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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